



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,562	08/05/2003	Christopher Lawrence Fernandez	6-10	6016
7590		07/16/2007	EXAMINER	
Werner Ulrich		NGUYEN, QUYNH H		
434 Maple Street		ART UNIT		
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137		PAPER NUMBER		
		2614		
		MAIL DATE		
		DELIVERY MODE		
		07/16/2007		
		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Art Unit: 2614

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed 4/12/07 has been entered. Claims 11-6, 9, 11-15, and 19-20 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-20 are still pending in this application, with claims 1 and 13 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 10, 13-14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Adams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,714,635).

As to claims 1 and 13, Adams et al. teaches a method of establishing a telecommunications group connection comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2614

in a database of the telecommunications network, storing identifications of members of a predefined group (see abstract; col. 3, lines 18-22; col. 4, lines 20-37);

responsive to the operation of an indicator, transmitting a request to the telecommunications network to establish a group connection among the members of the predefined group identified in the request (col. 3, lines 1-17);

in the database, translating between identification of the predefined group and identifications of members of the predefined group (col. 5, line 56 through col. 6, line 4);

in the network, establishing connections between members of the predefined group and a media duplicator for receiving input signals to members of the predefined group (col. 8, lines 6-22).

As to claims 2 and 14, Adams et al. teaches the group connection is a voice group connection (col. 3, lines 15-17 and lines 50-58; col. 4, lines 52-60; col. 5, lines 23-26; col. 6, lines 55-67) where Adams discussed participants in the predefined group join conference bridge 80 via wire line or wireless, hence members of the predefined group can hear a plurality of other talking members.

As to claims 7-8 and 16-17, Adams et al. teaches the indicator is a soft button, a telephone alphanumeric key (col. 5, lines 9-27).

As to claims 10 and 18, Adams et al. teaches transmitting a series of set-up requests from the server to the telecommunications network (col. 6, lines 21-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2614

5. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,714,635) in view of Wu (US Patent 6,275,575).

As to claims 4-6, Adams et al. does not teach a connection to a storage system, a connection to a pre-assigned alternate member, and a leader of the predefined group is substituted for a connection to an absent member of the predefined group.

Wu teaches upon commencement of the telephone conference, server 106 only contact participants who responded positively that they will attend the meeting, hence the server 106 substituted for a connection to an absent member by not establishing a connection to a absent member but instead to another member (col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4). Therefore it reads on claims limitation.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Wu into the teachings of Adams for the purpose of having a more efficient system by utilizing unused ports of absent member for another member of the group and saving system resource.

6. Claims 3, 9, 11-12, 15, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,714,635) in view of Cohen (U.S. Patent 6,332,153).

As to claims 3 and 15, Adams et al. does not teach a group connection is a video group connection wherein members of the group can see a plurality of other members.

Art Unit: 2614

Cohen teaches a group connection is a video group connection wherein members of the group can see a plurality of other members (col. 3, lines 66-67; col. 5, lines 49-51 - *where Cohen discussed multimedia computer stations and video*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Cohen into the teachings of Adams for the purpose of having a more efficient system by having a wide variety of communications multimedia, for example, video.

As to claims 9, 11, and 19, Cohen teaches requesting a half duplex connection from a member's station to other members of the group (col. 1, line 66 through col. 2, line 16).

As to claims 12 and 20, Cohen teaches the group connection is a full duplex connection (col. 2, lines 56-58; col. 3, lines 8-12).

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 2614

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Amano et al. (Pub. No US 2003/0035381) teaches telephone conference system.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on 571-272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

Application/Control Number: 10/634,562

Page 7

Art Unit: 2614

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

qhn

Quynh H. Nguyen

Quynh H. Nguyen

July 9, 2007